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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 001748

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WHA/CEN FOR MKOPOLOW

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: LETTER FROM EX-PRESIDENT MIGUEL ANGEL RODRIGUEZ  
FOR PRESIDENT BUSH

On August 3, post received two letters from former president Miguel Angel Rodriguez, addressed to President Bush and USTR Portman. The letters, both written in English, contain Mr. Rodriguez's congratulations on U.S. Congressional approval of the U.S.-Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Mr. Rodriguez, who is currently under house arrest pending charges of corruption, was a proponent of a free trade agreement with the United States during his tenure as president from 1998-2002. Calling Mr. Bush a "very good friend of Central America," Mr. Rodriguez states that, "Your decisive and courageous leadership and commitment to free trade, along with (Ambassadors Portman and Zoellick) will have a significant effect on growth and development throughout the world." Originals of the letters have been forwarded to WHA/CEN.

KAPLAN